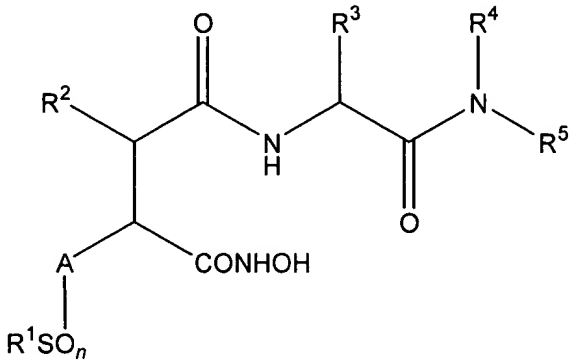
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments to claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

2. (Previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

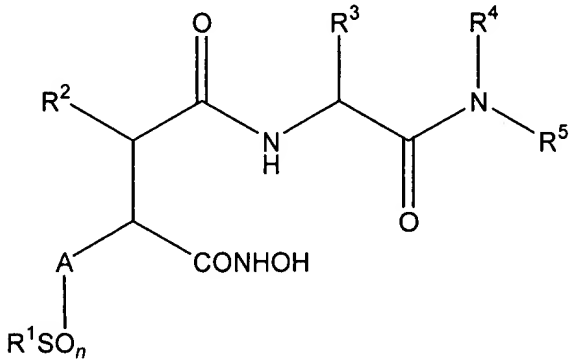
3. (Previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

4. (Previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

5. (Previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

6. (Previously presented) The method of 5, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

7. (Previously presented) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

8. (Previously presented) The method of 7, wherein said mammal is a human.

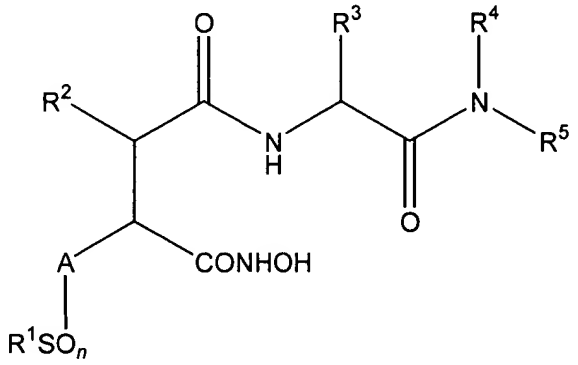
9. (Previously presented) The method of 7, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

10. (Previously presented) The method of 7, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

11. (Previously presented) The method of 7, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

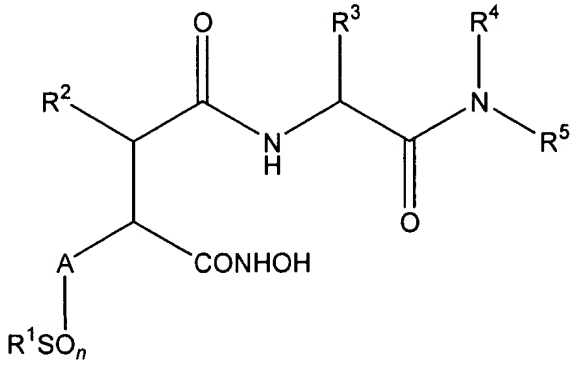
12. (Previously presented) The method of 11, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

13 (Previously presented) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



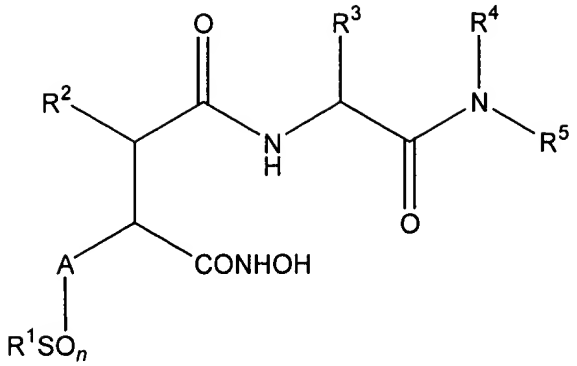
where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina.

14. (Previously presented) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina.

15. (Previously presented) A method of treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of said batimastat compound.

16. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said mammal is a human.

17. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

18. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

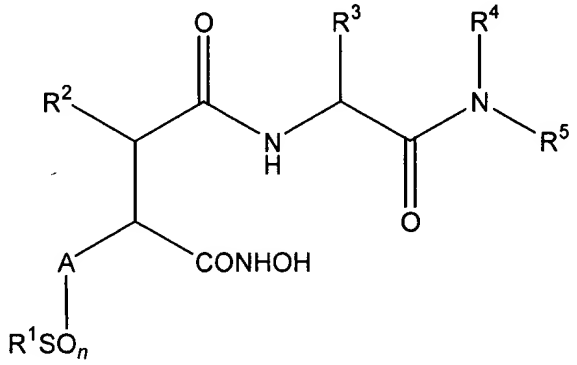
19. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

20. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

21. (Previously presented) The method of 15, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

22. (Previously presented) The method of 21, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

23. (Previously presented) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and a polymeric suspension agent, wherein said composition is capable of delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of said batimastat compound.

24. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said mammal is a human.

25. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

26. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.01 to about 3 percent by weight.

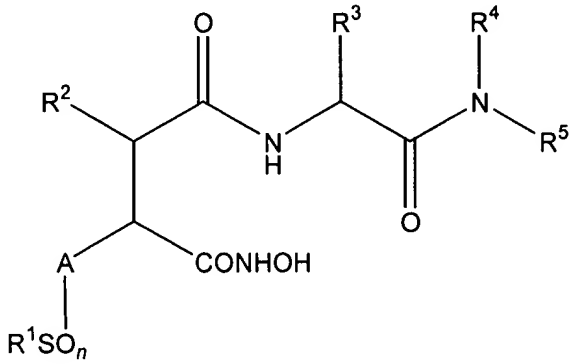
27. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

28. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises a polymer.

29. (Previously presented) The method of 23, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

30. (Previously presented) The method of 29, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

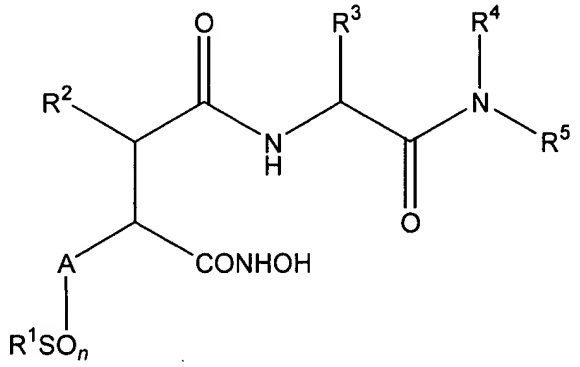
31. (Previously presented) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation

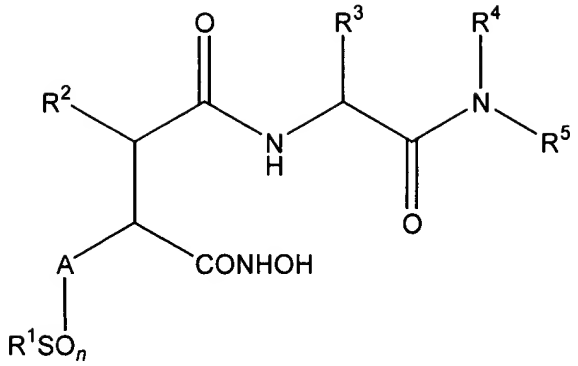
halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of said batimastat compound.

32. (Previously presented) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising administering topically to the eye a composition comprising a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, and delivering to the retina a therapeutically effective amount of said batimastat compound.

33. (Previously presented) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

34. (Previously presented) The method of 33, wherein said mammal is a human.

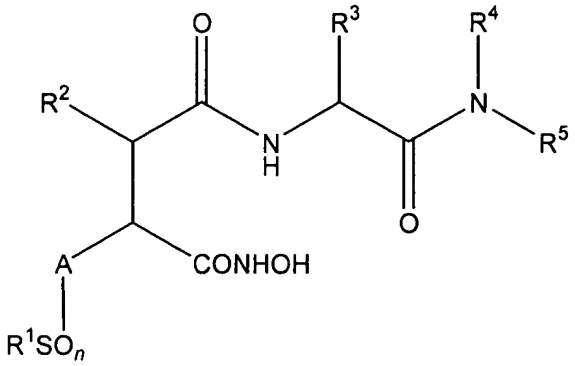
35. (Previously presented) The method of 33, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

36. (Previously presented) The method of 33, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

37. (Previously presented) The method of 33, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

38. (Previously presented) A method for preventing retinal neovascularization in a mammal susceptible to developing retinal neovascularization, comprising topically administering to the

eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a batimastat compound selected from the group consisting of: a compound of the formula



where R^1 represents thienyl, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, phenyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl or cycloalkenyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl group, R^3 represents an amino acid side chain or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzyl, (C_1-C_6 alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy(C_1-C_6 alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation, to the retina, wherein the composition comprises a carboxyl-vinyl polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

39. (Previously presented) The method of 38, wherein said mammal is a human.

40. (Previously presented) The method of 38, wherein said batimastat compound is batimastat.

41. (Previously presented) The method of 38, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.05 to about 0.5 percent by weight.

42. (Previously presented) The method of 38, wherein said batimastat compound is present at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 0.3 percent by weight.

43. - 66. (Canceled)

67. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and consists essentially of about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

68. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein said composition consists essentially of a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

69. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said composition comprises a polymeric suspension agent and consists essentially of about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.

70. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said composition consists essentially of a polymeric suspension agent and about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight, of said batimastat compound.